

## AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Appointment of Mr. Ralph Grathoff and Mr. William D. Bangs, Jr. to St. Charles Tree Commission

Presenter: Mayor DeWitte

*Please check appropriate box:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City Council (5/2/11)

Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

### Executive Summary:

By virtue of this memorandum I request your favorable consideration to appoint the following two gentlemen to the St. Charles Tree Commission:

Mr. Ralph Grathoff, 1402 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Charles, IL 60174. Mr. Grathoff is a partner of Thornapple Landscapes, Inc. located in Batavia. He will fill one of the vacancies with a term expiration of 4/30/14.

Mr. William D. Bangs, Jr., 51 McKinley Street, St. Charles, IL 60174. Mr. Bangs has experience with tree planting and will fill one of the vacancies with a term expiration of 4/30/12.

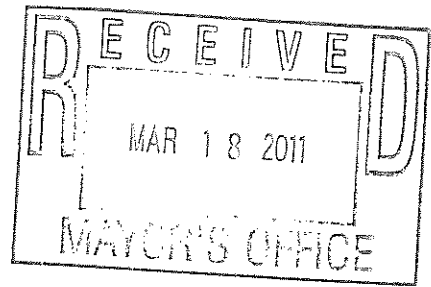
### Attachments: (please list)

Letters of Interest

### Recommendation / Suggested Action (briefly explain):

Approve appointment as presented

For office use only: Agenda Item Number: IF



Mayor's Office  
2 E. Main St.  
St. Charles, IL 60174

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mayor DeWitte:

Kindly consider my request to be appointed to one of the open positions on the City of St. Charles Tree Commission.

Here is a brief resume.

I grew up in St. Charles and attended the district schools through high school graduation. I then attended Iowa State University, graduating in 1987.

After college I worked in the city of Chicago for several years before returning to the Fox Valley to join my father's business. I've lived in St. Charles since 1999 and currently reside in the Fifth Ward.

I am a partner at Thornapple Landscapes, Inc., in Batavia.

I've had the occasion to attend a meeting of the commission. I find the work done by the commission to be interesting, important and certainly merits its support by the City of St. Charles and its citizens. In addition, the commission meeting was well run, professional, and its members are genuinely involved in the tasks at hand.

That said, I thank you for your consideration of this request.

If you have any questions or require any further information please feel free to contact me via e-mail at [ralph@thornapplelandscapes.com](mailto:ralph@thornapplelandscapes.com) or call 630.232.2076.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ralph Grathoff

*William D. Bangs, Jr.*  
*51 McKinley Street*  
*Saint Charles, IL 60174-4171*

April 25, 2011

Dear Ms. Nilles:


In 1949, my parents moved to a farm on what is now the SW corner of Crane and Randall Roads, but there was no Randall Road and Crane Road was a gravel road. The farm was my permanent residence through elementary, jr. and sr. high school, four years at Boston University, and then until I was married. After a few months in Batavia, my wife and I moved to STC township in June 1968 and there we stayed until December 2010, when we moved "into town" from Wild Rose (8 yrs); before that the farm on Crane Road (22 yrs); and before that Dean Street (11 yrs) across from Babson Lane.

Trees have been part of my life for as long as I can remember. They say "*an acorn doesn't fall far from the oak.*" My great-great grandfather established Arbor Day in Nebraska in April 1872, on a day when supposedly one million trees were planted. His sons and their sons followed his lead. My mother kept the flame alive. So, when my wife and I moved onto our first house, which is still surrounded on three sides by open fields thanks to the KC Forest Preserve, we hand-dug thorn trees from along Ferson Creek on my parents' farm, as they had from Ami Allen's farm on Route 31 some 15+ years earlier, and transplanted them onto our property along Dean Street ... "too close together", but why would we listen to my parents.

Sometime well after 1949, I met and helped a young German fellow, who was working on a project on my parents' farm. Since then, I always admired his landscape work and later successes, both in business and civically. The trees of St. Charles lost a great friend when Peter Grathoff was no longer able to serve the city.

Though not nearly as qualified botanically as Peter, I would be honored to enthusiastically pick up his arboreal torch on the St. Charles Tree Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bangs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ms. Tina Nilles  
Office of City Administrator & Mayor  
2 East Main Street  
St Charles, IL 60174